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FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

87th
PLENARY MEETING
Thursday, 23 December 1993
at 5 p.m.

NEW YORK

President: INSANALLY
(Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 5.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 24 *(continued)*

UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

(a) REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/48/334, A/48/336 and Corr.1)

(b) NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TRANSMITTING A REPORT BY THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/48/335 and Add.1 and 2)

(c) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.24/Rev.2)

(d) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/810)

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its debate on this agenda item at its 50th meeting, held on 4 November.

I call on the representative of Norway to introduce draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.2.

Mr. HUSLID (Norway): It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me to introduce draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.2, on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. It is an honour because the draft resolution deals with a most important subject, and it is a pleasure because it is my understanding that we will be able to adopt the draft resolution by consensus. The draft resolution before the Assembly is the result of what is called the first preliminary consideration of the implementation of the New Agenda, as foreseen in paragraph 43 (a) of that document (resolution 46/151, annex II).

It was also my honour a little more than two years ago to present to the General Assembly the basic document, the New Agenda itself. On that occasion I made the following description of the document, which I shall permit myself to quote today:

> "The document, which should be regarded as a political document, makes clear the common recognition that, although Africa's development is primarily the responsibility of Africans ... the international community accepts the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership with Africa and commits itself to giving full and tangible support to the African efforts. I think that such a statement, solemnly accepted by the General Assembly, is of considerable importance for the decade ahead". *(A/46/PV.43, pp. 8-10)*

The New Agenda is not a treaty which can be enforced juridically. It is what I would call a political compact between Africa and the rest of the world community, entailing tasks for both partners towards a common goal. The draft resolution before the Assembly tries to follow up on this compact. Aware of the time constraints, I shall not try to go into any detail as regards the content of the draft resolution before the Assembly. It does not try to reformulate the New Agenda, but it reaffirms its basic principles. It commends the African

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countries for the actions undertaken so far to promote an economic environment conducive to growth and development in the broad sense, and it calls upon them to pursue vigorously their responsibilities and commitments under the Agenda.

Likewise, the General Assembly renews its call upon the international community to pursue vigorously its commitment, in the words of the Agenda, "to giving full and tangible support to the African efforts" (resolution 46/151, annex II, para. 1). In this connection, the United Nations, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, is also called upon, in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity and other organizations and organs within the United Nations system, to follow up the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

The draft resolution deals in some detail with some of the elements contained in the New Agenda, such as debt, financial assistance, investments and human resources development, as well as social and economic infrastructure rehabilitation and development. In this connection, reference is also made to the Tokyo Declaration and the commitments contained therein.

A special emphasis and interest is given in the draft resolution to the question of economic diversification , and in this connection to the proposed establishment of a diversification fund for African commodities. It was not possible, within the short time at our disposal, to come to any final conclusions on this important issue. However, the General Assembly is asked to address rigorously the full range of issues related to the diversification of African economies in the time ahead. In this connection, consultations are foreseen with both interested States and the relevant financial institutions, as well as with other United Nations organizations. On the basis of these consultations, appropriate action is to be taken at a resumed session of this Assembly in order to, in the words of the resolution

> "strengthen support for the diversification of African economies, including the proposed establishment of new funding arrangements, together with the organization of follow-up activities, such as seminars or expert workshops" (A/48/L.24/Rev.2, para. 18).

An important programme of work in this field has thus been laid down.

I shall end my introduction by extending some expressions of thanks. We first thank the Secretary-General for his valuable reports, which helped us greatly in our informal group. As for this group, I can say it worked diligently and well. Consensus did not come about easily, which is perhaps not surprising, bearing in mind that we are here dealing with difficult economic and social problems. I want to thank each and every one of the participants in the group, and in particular the respective spokespersons for their efforts and cooperation in sometimes difficult circumstances. Likewise, I wish to thank the Secretariat for its dedicated assistance.

We rejoice, particularly at this time of joy and expectation, that we have reached, I trust, a full consensus, which bodes well for the continuation of the programme geared towards the great task which is the development of Africa in the 1990s. But as far as the future of that programme is concerned, let us remember that, although words and language may be important, action is decisive. As a Norwegian poet once put it, "The good deeds save the world."

I commend this draft resolution for unanimous adoption by the Assembly.

The PRESIDENT: I understand that the delegation of Egypt wishes to speak on a point of order.

Mrs. HASSAN (Egypt): Operative paragraph 13 of document A/48/L.24/Rev.2 should read as follows:

> "Affirms the need for further efforts to promote the diversification of African economies"

rather than "African countries".

The second editorial correction is in operative paragraph 18. The phrase "appropriate action" should read "appropriate actions", in the plural rather than the singular form.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of Egypt for drawing our attention to those deficiencies. The corrections will be made.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.2. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/48/810. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.2 by consensus?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/214).

Mrs. HASSAN (Egypt) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Since Egypt is currently Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, our delegation would like to express deep

satisfaction at the adoption of draft resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.2 by consensus.

We feel that this is an extremely positive sign, and an affirmation of the importance the various parties attach to carrying out the commitments and recommendations of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Similarly, this points the way towards establishing an economic environment that will ensure growth and development in Africa, with respect to which all parties have their responsibilities.

Without going into details, the draft resolution we have just adopted is of particular importance, since it is considered to be the first step towards assessing the progress made in implementing the programme since its adoption by consensus in 1991. This assessment will be made at the high-level substantive meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 1995; after that, a mid-term assessment will be carried out by the General Assembly in 1996.

The intensive and difficult negotiations on this draft resolution show the importance that Africa and its donor-State partners attach to the items it contains and to the three reports (A/48/335, A/48/336, A/48/337) presented by the Secretary-General on this agenda item.

We pay tribute to the efforts and the talents of Ambassador Martin Huslid, the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations, who conducted those very difficult and intensive negotiations with great diplomatic skill. Although the draft resolution does not meet the expectations of the African States with regard to implementing the Secretary-General's recommendation that a diversification fund for African commodities be established, in the framework of the African Development Bank, there was consensus on the importance of consolidating the international community's support for the efforts to diversify African products, which they consider to be one of the serious problems hindering the development of the African countries.

My delegation would like to emphasize that the resolution provides for intensive consultations during the first quarter of next year and for asking Africa's donor-country partners to participate effectively in those consultations with open minds and hearts so that we can adopt a well-defined resolution and concrete measures to realize Africa's aspirations to establish this diversification fund.

Egypt, which has the honour of presiding over the current session of the Organization of African Unity, would like to take this opportunity to draw attention once again to the importance African States attach to the role of the United Nations and to the support of the international community and of the international financing agencies in expediting the implementation of commitments and recommendations within this programme, in order to consolidate African development efforts during the rest of the 1990s, and also so that Africa can march with certainty towards the end of this century and towards the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Mr. PORTOCARERO (Belgium) *(interpretation from French)*: Speaking on behalf of the European Union, I wish to say that it took a very active part in the debate on following up the United Nations New Agenda for the development of Africa. The links between the European Union and Africa are such that everything concerning the African continent is also of great importance for the Union, which is both the principal commercial partner of and the biggest donor to Africa.

The New Agenda is in many respects a remarkable document, both in terms of its content and the balance between the respective commitments of the African countries and of the international community which is reflected in it. Hence, it should prove to be a solid basis for our concerted efforts for the development of Africa.

The content of the New Agenda has been carefully negotiated, and its balance between various matters and the responsibilities of various parties should be scrupulously respected. The African countries have courageously recognized their primary responsibility, and the international community has undertaken, among other things, to improve the general framework within which these efforts will be most fruitful.

We understand perfectly, of course, that the African countries want vigorously to pursue the implementation of the New Agenda and that the operational priorities should be submitted for approval by the donor countries.

With regard to the problem of diversification of commodities, it became clear to us, during the negotiations and discussions we held throughout this session, that we did not possess all the necessary information to enable us to take a decision in the way initially proposed by the African Group. This in no way detracts from the primary importance which we attach to the subject of economic diversification in Africa in general and in particular for the countries which are largely dependent upon basic commodity exports.

Economic diversification is a complicated subject. Subsequent consultations on this subject will enable us to identify the problems and needs of African countries in this

regard. The optimum use of existing machinery remains a priority from our standpoint. I should like in this regard to recall that all the members of the European Union are members of the Common Fund as are indeed the majority of the Members of the United Nations.

We shall approach the consultations without any preconceived ideas and with a sense of responsibility, in the spirit of the undertakings we entered into in negotiating the New Agenda. It is an open-ended process, and its results should take into account the various viewpoints which will be expressed, particularly on the technical and administrative aspects.

With regard to the many other subjects tackled in A/48/L.24/Rev.2, which we have just adopted by consensus, we welcome the great spirit of compromise on the part of all the negotiators. On a number of subjects, the text of the resolution requires, as we see it, an interpretation which respects the former consensus text, particularly for those parts which deal with the problem of debt and the commitments of the international community with regard to the objectives to be achieved in official development assistance.

With regard to debt, we reaffirm our support for differential treatment adapted to individual cases in accordance with the language of the recent resolution of the Second Committee. The reference to the proposal with regard to an international conference on the problems of indebtedness in Africa is to be placed within this context. We continue to believe that the measures taken, and to be taken, within the framework of the existing strategy offer the most practical remedies for these problems. With regard to other objectives of official assistance, let us recall that the text of the Agenda on this subject represents the current state of international consensus.

The fact that we should be talking again about the question of the economic diversification of Africa before the end of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly gives us another forum for maintaining the focus on the New Agenda. We hope that the best use of this will be made. In the meantime, we express the hope that this resolution will contribute to maintaining the high priority that the economic development of Africa deserves.

I cannot end without thanking Ambassador Huslid for his role as coordinator of our discussions. I would also like to pay warm tribute to the negotiators of the African Group, and particularly to our colleagues, Mr. Soliman Awaad of Egypt and Mr. Rogatien Biaou of Benin, for the often difficult task which they performed with so much conviction and so effectively.

Mr. SHIBATA (Japan): My delegation also welcomes the adoption by consensus by the Assembly of resolution A/48/L.24/Rev.2, entitled "The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s".

In this connection, we pay tribute to Ambassador Huslid of Norway for skilfully conducting the informal consultations on this resolution to accomplish the consensus text which we have just adopted. My delegation wishes to extend its sincere appreciation for his strenuous efforts.

In October this year my Government hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. It is now actively engaged, with the cooperation of other partners, in activities to follow up the results of the Conference. It is therefore particularly gratifying for my delegation to note that the resolution also underlines the spirit of cooperation and partnership proclaimed in the Tokyo declaration.

We understand that we are to have further consultations over some outstanding issues early next year. My delegation wishes to assure you, Mr. President, of our continuous commitment to actively contributing to the international efforts towards pursuing the effective solution to the problems with which Africa has been struggling in recent years.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America): The United States is a leading supporter of international efforts to assist the troubled economies of Africa, and considers the resolution to contain many positive elements. However, in joining the consensus on it we feel obliged to clarify our position on two important points.

The first concerns the proposal to establish a diversification fund for African commodities. The United States recognizes the need for African countries to diversify their economies, including their commodity exports. However, the United States does not believe that establishing a new fund for this purpose is the answer, nor do we believe that the General Assembly is competent to decide on the establishment of such a fund. The proposal requires full discussion and consideration by one of the international financial institutions that might be responsible for managing the fund.

The United States further considers it ill-advised to set up a new fund for commodity diversification when there are already funding sources that could be used for this purpose. Creating a new fund will not generate additional resources. It will, however, create additional bureaucracy and additional costs, which would come out of existing development resources.

The second point concerns the reference in paragraph 21 of the resolution to convening an international conference on African external debt. The United States opposes convening such a conference. As we explained in our statement on the debt resolution under agenda item 92, the United States strongly believes that international debt matters are best handled on a case-by-case basis through international financial institutions and through the Paris Club. Many African countries have benefited substantially from this approach. The United States continues to work with other creditors and the international financial institutions on strategies to reduce the debt burdens of African countries in the context of their economic and structural reforms. We do not believe that a United Nations conference on the subject would be constructive.

Our decision to join the consensus on this resolution should not be seen as altering our position on these two important issues.

My delegation would also like to clarify its position with regard to paragraph 22, which refers to the

> "agreed international targets of devoting 0.7 per cent of gross national product to official development assistance".

The United States has never accepted this target. We believe that establishing aid targets detracts from the more important issues of the effectiveness and quality of aid and the policies of recipient countries. The United States has traditionally been the largest donor of development aid in volume terms, and we will continue to provide high-quality aid on a case-by-case basis in a way that encourages reform efforts.

Mr. VAN DUNEM "MBINDA" (Angola) *(interpretation from French):* On behalf of the African Group, which I have the honor of presiding over for the month of December, I support the position of the representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and congratulate Ambassador Nabil Elaraby, the Permanent Representative of Egypt, who has just spoken on the resolution on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

We welcome the spirit of cooperation and sense of compromise which reigned during the lengthy and difficult consultations and negotiations which eventually led to this consensus resolution. We especially stress the importance of the need for a diversification fund for African commodities and of the deadlines for consultation procedures to be undertaken at the resumed forty-eighth session on urgent measures requested by the African countries - the proposed fund in particular.

Nevertheless, we should also like to emphasize that only concrete results produced by the deadlines, procedures and the consultations envisaged can justify the foundation of the work done at this session. Such results would confirm in particular the decisions contained in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the resolution by making it possible to avoid any negative interpretation of the real intentions of Africa's partners, the so-called countries of the North.

In conclusion, we hope that the Secretary-General will take all necessary measures to implement the resolution.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 24.

AGENDA ITEM 47 *(continued)*

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1995

(a) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.51)

(b) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/809)

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Australia to introduce draft resolution A/48/L.51.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia): I have the honour to address the Assembly today in my capacity as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

I can be brief in introducing the draft resolution, the text of which is found in document A/48/L.51. The draft resolution has been the subject of consultations - in the first instance, among members of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee and then among the wider membership of the United Nations. Its text is simple. It takes note of the fact that at an earlier meeting of the Preparatory Committee the Secretary-General made it clear that commemorative activities in connection with the fiftieth anniversary would be financed from a Trust Fund for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations established by the Secretary-General for that purpose.

The text further notes consequentially that it was agreed that it would be essential to the effective functioning and proper management of the fiftieth anniversary that its secretariat be assured of adequate staff and related resources. In other words, a distinction was drawn between commemorative activities, which would be

financed from extrabudgetary sources, and the necessity to make provision within the budget for an adequate staff and resources for the secretariat for the fiftieth anniversary.

The General Assembly, in accepting the reports of the Preparatory Committee, has already accepted this approach and this distinction. What is proposed now in the draft resolution is the specific approval following upon that approach of the creation of the post of Special Adviser at the Under-Secretary-General level against general temporary assistance resources for organizing and coordinating activities related to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, and it requests the Secretary-General to provide adequate secretariat support for the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

As is right and customary, this draft resolution has been considered by the Fifth Committee, and as is reported in document A/48/809, the Committee considered the programme budget implications of the draft resolution and found that it should inform the General Assembly that,

> "should it adopt draft resolution A/48/L.51, no additional appropriation would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995". *(A/48/809, para. 3)*

In conclusion, I note that this draft resolution is based on consultation; it is based on agreement amongst the membership; and it has no additional budgetary implications. Under those circumstances, it remains for me to thank colleagues for cooperating in this work and in making possible the establishment of an appropriate set of resources within the Secretariat, and within the budget, for the work we must do in-house for the preparation of the fiftieth anniversary, and finally to commend the draft resolution to the General Assembly for adoption - which I believe can take place today, by consensus.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.51. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is contained in document A/48/809.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.51?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/215).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 47.

AGENDA ITEMS 120 TO 126, 127 *(continued)*, 128 TO 138, 149, 159, 160, 162, 164 TO 166, 168, 173,174, 12 *(continued)*, AND 17 *(continued)*

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART I) (A/48/752)

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/801 and Add.1)

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/804 and Corr.1)

IMPROVING THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART I) (A/48/756)

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/740)

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/753)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/806)

UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/737)

UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/738)

FINANCING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE PROSECUTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMMITTED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA SINCE 1991: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/802)

PERSONNEL QUESTIONS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART I) (A/48/805)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

(a) UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/812)

(b) UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/813)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/814)

FINANCING OF THE ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991):

(a) UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/815)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE REFERENDUM IN WESTERN SAHARA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/816)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/817)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/818)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/819)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA II: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/820)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS:

(a) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART I) (A/48/807)

(b) RELOCATION OF BELARUS AND UKRAINE TO THE GROUP OF MEMBER STATES SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 3 (c) OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 43/232: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/48/807/Add.1)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN MOZAMBIQUE: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/821)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN CYPRUS: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/822)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN GEORGIA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/823)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/825)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN HAITI: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/826)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN LIBERIA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/827)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/828)

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILITARY LIAISON TEAM IN CAMBODIA: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/829)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/811)

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

(a) REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/743)

(b) CHAPTERS CONSIDERED DIRECTLY IN PLENARY MEETING [chapters I, V (sections A and B) AND IX]

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(f) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (A/48/697)

The PRESIDENT: I now request the Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee, Mr. Mahbub Kabir of Bangladesh, to introduce the reports of the Fifth Committee in one intervention.

Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh), Rapporteur of the Fifth Committee: I have the honour to present to the General Assembly the reports of the Fifth Committee on the agenda items allocated to it. Members will recall that 51 agenda items were allocated to the Fifth Committee at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

From 28 September to 22 December 1993 the Fifth Committee held 46 plenary meetings. Negotiations were carried out through numerous informal consultations. This year, the Fifth Committee had to work under very difficult circumstances; yet with hard work, dedication and a spirit of cooperation and flexibility, we were able to conclude our work successfully. I am happy to report that all the draft resolutions and draft decisions of the Committee were adopted by consensus. The following is a brief report of the result of the work of the Fifth Committee.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 120, "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors", appears in document A/48/752. In paragraph 5 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 121, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", appears in document A/48/801. In paragraph 10 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolution. Draft resolution I is entitled "Managing works of art in the United Nations: report of the Joint Inspection Unit"; and draft resolution II is entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". In document A/48/801/Add.1, the Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft decisions. These relate to the biennial programme of work of the Fifth Committee and to action taken by the Fifth Committee on certain documents.

Regarding agenda item 122, "Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in documents A/48/804 and A/48/804/Corr.1. In paragraph 6 of the report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution. Part A relates to the final budget appropriation for the biennium 1992-1993, and part B to final income estimates for the biennium 1992-1993. In paragraph 7 of the report, the Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, entitled "Second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993".

Concerning agenda item 124, "Improving the financial situation of the United Nations", part I of the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/48/756. In paragraph 7 of that report the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

The report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 125, "Joint Inspection Unit" is contained in document A/48/740. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution in paragraph 6 of that report.

Concerning agenda item 126, "Pattern of conferences", the report of the Fifth Committee is contained in document A/48/753. In paragraph 7 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution.

Concerning agenda item 127, "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/806. In paragraph 11 of its report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", which, I am proud to report, was adopted by the Committee without a vote.

Under the same item, the Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision entitled "Appointment of a member emeritus of the Committee on Contributions", which relates to the appointment of Ambassador Amjad Ali. The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee.

Concerning agenda item 128, "United Nations common system", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/737. In paragraph 6 of this report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution which it adopted.

Concerning agenda item 129, "United Nations pension system", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/738. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft resolution

contained in paragraph 7 of the report. This draft resolution was also adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 159, "Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/802. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee.

On agenda item 168, "Personnel questions", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/805. In paragraph 5 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a procedural draft decision, which was also adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 130 (a), "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/812. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which it adopted and which is contained in paragraph 6 of that report.

On agenda item 130 (b), "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/813. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which it adopted and which is contained in paragraph 6 of that report.

Concerning agenda item 131, "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/814. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which was adopted by the Committee.

On agenda item 132 (a), "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/815. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which it adopted and which is contained in paragraph 6 of that report.

Concerning agenda item 133, "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/816. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 134, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/817. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which it adopted and which is contained in paragraph 6 of that report.

On agenda item 135, "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/818. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 136, "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/819. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which it adopted and which is contained in paragraph 6 of that report.

On agenda item 137 "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/820. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which it adopted and which is contained in paragraph 6 of that report.

Concerning agenda item 138, "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations" part I of the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/807. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of two draft resolutions which were adopted by the Committee and are contained in paragraph 9 of that report. Part II of the report of the Committee, relating to the relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232, is contained in document A/48/807/Add.1. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", which was adopted by the Committee and is contained in paragraph 7 of that report.

Concerning agenda item 149, "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/821. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 160, "Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/822. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which is contained in paragraph 6 of that report.

On agenda item 162, "Financing of the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/823. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the draft decision which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 164, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/825. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 165, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Haiti", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/826. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 166, "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/827. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 173, "Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/828. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 174, "Financing of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/829. In paragraph 6 of that report, the Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee.

Concerning agenda item 123, "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/811, as a cover page. On the substance of the work of the Committee, with regard to agenda item 123, delegations may wish to refer to document A/C.5/48/L.10, which contains all the recommendations of the Fifth Committee in this regard.

Concerning agenda item 12, "Report of the Economic and Social Council", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/743. In paragraph 4 of that report, the Committee recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision, which was adopted by the Committee.

Finally, under agenda item 17 (f), "Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission", the report of the Committee is contained in document A/48/697. In paragraph 5 of that report the Committee recommended to the General Assembly the appointment for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1994 of Mr. Mario Bettati, France; Ms. Lucretia Myers, United States; Mr. Antonio Fonseca Pimentel, Brazil; Mr. Alexis Stephanou, Greece; and Mr. Ku Tashiro, Japan.

Members are fully aware that the Fifth Committee always finishes its work somewhat behind schedule. The Committee has had to deal with an ever-increasing workload, and this year the difficult review process of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 has been completed with a full consensus. Hence, it was a very rewarding process. This is important to all delegations in the Committee, and we are proud that this consensus has been achieved in all the decisions taken by the Committee.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the very able Secretary of our Committee, Mr. Joseph Acakpo-Satchivi, and his dedicated assistants for the smooth functioning of the work of our Committee. I would also like to thank the Controller, Mr. Yukio Takasu, the Budget Director, Mr. Jean-Pierre Halbwachs, and all their staff for the full support they have extended to the Committee to bring its work to a successful conclusion.

The PRESIDENT: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee which are before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote or position.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that, under

paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will first consider part I (A/48/752) of the report of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 120, entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of part I of that report. The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/216).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 120.

The Assembly will now consider the reports (A/48/801 and Add.1) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 121, entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of document A/48/801 as well as on the two draft decisions recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of the addendum to its report.

We turn first to the two draft resolutions contained in paragraph 10 of document A/48/801. Draft resolution I is entitled "Managing works of art in the United Nations: report of the Joint Inspection Unit". The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 48/217).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". The decision of the Fifth Committee concerning the programme budget implications of draft resolution II is contained in paragraph 13 of document A/48/801. The Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 48/218).

The PRESIDENT: We will now take a decision on the two draft decisions recommended in paragraph 5 of the addendum to document A/48/801. Draft decision I is contained, for the time being, in document A/C.5/48/L.33. Draft decision I is entitled "Biennial programme of work for the Fifth Committee for 1994-1995". The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision I without a vote. May I take it that we will do the same?

Draft decision I was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Draft decision II is entitled "Action taken on certain documents". The Fifth Committee adopted draft decision II without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly will do likewise?

Draft decision II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 121.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/804) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 122, entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution (A and B) recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report and the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of the same document.

The Assembly will first take a decision on the draft resolution (A and B) recommended for adoption by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report (A/48/804).

The draft resolution deals with the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft resolution (A and B)?

The draft resolution (A and B) was adopted (resolution 48/219 A and B).

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the draft decision recommended for adoption by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. That draft decision concerns the "Second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993". May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 122.

We will now consider Part I of the report (A/48/756) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 124, entitled "Improving the financial situation of the United Nations".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of Part I of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/220).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 124.

We will now consider the report (A/48/740) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 125, entitled "Joint Inspection Unit".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report (document A/48/740). The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/221).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 125?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We will now consider the report (A/48/753) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 126, entitled "Pattern of conferences".

We will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/222 A and B).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is also the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 126?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/806) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 127, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations".

We will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 10 of its report and the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 11 of the same document.

We turn first to the draft decision entitled "Appointment of a member emeritus of the Committee on Contributions". The Fifth Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We turn next to the draft resolution entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations". The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/223 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on representatives who wish to speak after the decision.

Mr. BAUMANIS (Latvia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania and my own country, Latvia.

The Baltic delegations are grateful to Ambassador Maycock of Barbados, who chaired the long and difficult informal negotiations on agenda item 127. His skill and patience were essential for reaching consensus.

The Baltic States joined in the adoption, without a vote, of draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13, in the belief that it is a small but significant first step toward a simpler, more transparent methodology for determining scales of assessment and towards achieving assessment rates in the next scale for the 22 Member States, including Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, in accordance with their capacity to pay.

The remaining two steps that would achieve the two above-mentioned goals will have to be taken by the Committee on Contributions at its next session and by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

The achievement of these two goals will not mean that compliance has been achieved with the principle of sovereign equality enshrined in Article 2 (1) of the Charter. This is true for two reasons. First, the excessive assessment rates for the current scale period, determined by an ad hoc method that discriminated against the 22 Member States, will remain unchanged despite the fact that the principle of sovereign equality means that all Member States have equal rights and obligations, including financial ones. Secondly, the current assessment rates of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are derived from the assessment rate of the former Soviet Union, and their advance to the Working Capital Fund is paid out of the advance of the former Soviet Union - that is, the Baltic States have been forced to accept a financial obligation and an asset of the former Soviet Union.

The position of the Baltic States is that they are not successors to the former Soviet Union. Rather, they were occupied and illegally incorporated into that State. The principle of sovereign equality requires respect from other States for positions that are a part of the personality of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The Baltic States reserve the right to take actions concerning assessment rates and advances to the Working Capital Fund intended to achieve compliance with the principle of sovereign equality.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania believe that the excessive assessment rates for the 22 Member States were caused in part by the present procedure and methodology for determining scales of assessment. The Baltic delegations support the reform of both the procedure and the methodology for determining scales of assessment, and are ready to contribute to this endeavour.

Mr. ALBIN (Mexico) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: In joining the consensus on the adoption of the draft resolution on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, my delegation wishes to repeat its conviction - expressed for the first time at the San Francisco Conference - that the rights accorded by the Charter to certain Member States should correspond to the responsibilities which those States ought to assume in financing the Organization.

Mexico continues to be convinced that the contribution of the permanent members of the Security Council to the regular budget of the United Nations must reflect that link. But, in the nearly 50 years since the establishment of the United Nations, there has been a considerable reduction in the amount paid by these States towards the expenditures of the United Nations - from 61.09 per cent in 1946 to 43.5 per cent in 1993.

My delegation regrets that in the draft resolution we have just adopted, it was not possible to include a reference to the usefulness of exploring possible criteria for the apportionment of a fixed percentage of the costs of the United Nations corresponding to the rights and obligations devolving upon the permanent members of the Security Council under the Charter. In our view, this is a question linked to the equity which should prevail in the Organization and also to the legitimacy which ought to derive from powers that are exercised by only a certain group of countries. That is why my delegation reserves the right to raise this matter again in the appropriate place at the appropriate time.

Mr. IDRISSOV (Kazakhstan): First, the delegation of Kazakhstan supports whole-heartedly the adoption of the draft decision now contained in document A/C.5/48/L.11, and it welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Syed Amjad Ali as member emeritus of the Committee on Contributions, in recognition of the invaluable service he rendered to the Committee for 27 years as its Chairman.

Our delegation's position on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations has been made clear on several occasions. We believe that the Organization needs a scale of assessment which is based on a transparent, simple and non-discriminatory methodology that eliminates its highly distorting elements, in particular the scheme of limits and the long statistical base period. The scale methodology should clearly reflect its basic principle, that is, the capacity to pay.

The delegation of Kazakhstan joined the consensus on the draft resolution now contained in document A/C.5/48/L.13 with the understanding that its adoption will

serve as the first step towards a major reform of the scale methodology. As a part of the former Soviet Union and of a group of Member States referred to in the context of the scale of assessments as the Group of 22 - the rates of which are highly overassessed at present and have been calculated using an ad hoc approach and not applying the standard scale methodology - the delegation of Kazakhstan notes that operative paragraph 3 of part B of the draft resolution in document A/C.5/48/L.13 recognizes the existence of problems with the assessment rates of the Group of 22, and requests the Committee on Contributions to address these problems and make its recommendations to the General Assembly at its next session. Our delegation hopes that this paragraph will be viewed by that highly respected expert body as a clear message to determine for Kazakhstan, as well as the other States of the so-called Group of 22, assessment rates that reflect as much as possible their real capacity to pay.

In conclusion, the delegation of Kazakhstan would like to extend special thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Maycock, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations, whose professional and diplomatic skills and tact in coordinating the informal consultations on agenda item 127 proved to be very important in bringing about the consensus that resulted from the negotiations. Our delegation welcomes the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution in document A/C.5/48/L.13 and believes that it will serve as an important guideline for fruitful work by the Committee on Contributions at its next session.

Mr. BURAVKIN (Belarus) *(interpretation from Russian)*: I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the delegations of Ukraine and Belarus in explanation of vote after the consensus adoption of draft resolution A/C.5/48/L.13, "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", which is contained in the report (A/48/806) of the Fifth Committee.

A year ago, in the General Assembly Hall, the delegations of Ukraine and Belarus were forced to state their disagreement with the adoption of a decision because extremely important circumstances with respect to the national experience of those two States were ignored: their membership in the United Nations for almost 50 years, the difficult restructuring of their social life on a democratic basis, an acute economic crisis and an exhausting struggle to eliminate the consequences of humankind's worst disaster in history - the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

As a result of the adoption of that decision, the rates of both States were increased by more than 50 per cent, which greatly increased the gap between Member States' real capacity to pay and their financial obligations to the United Nations. The representatives of many States who voted for the adoption of that decision (A/47/456) at that time indicated the need for such a step and expressed their sympathy to us. Time was to determine the depth of the sincerity of those words. Today, our delegations have joined in the consensus adoption of the draft resolution because it is evidence that last year's sympathy was sincere and that the unfairness towards my country and Ukraine can now be corrected.

In the draft resolution just adopted, the General Assembly proposes that the Committee on Contributions, during its future work on the scale of assessments for the period 1995-1997, take into account the specific circumstances of Belarus and Ukraine in the context of resolving the problems encountered by our countries and by some 20 other newly independent States, and that this should be considered when the scale of assessments for the regular budget is determined.

During the negotiations prior to the decision, the delegations of many Member States expressed their sincere understanding of the special circumstances in which Belarus and Ukraine find themselves with respect to carrying out their financial obligations to the United Nations. I take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all the participants in the difficult negotiations for the flexibility they showed and their aspiration to find constructive approaches. This inspires hope in us that the international community is prepared to assess the depth of the political and economic problems in our States and to try to respond to the appeal for assistance in restructuring our life on a genuinely humane and democratic basis.

We would like to hope that the adoption of this resolution is a firm beginning of a shift to new fundamental elements on the basis of which contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations will be determined for all Member States of the United Nations. The task before us is to come up, finally, with a scale which is more stable, more simple and more balanced. An important role in that process is to be played by the Committee on Contributions, whose activities, in our view, should be more open and more modern.

The delegations of Belarus and Ukraine are counting on the Committee on Contributions constantly to bear in mind our two countries' special problems, as well as the problems of new States Members of the United Nations emerging from former republics of the Soviet Union, which inherited inflated statistics on national income, and ruble exchange rates against the dollar that led to elevated assessments for the United Nations budget and for peace-keeping operations.

Let me stress once again, in referring to the particular circumstances of our countries, that the Governments of Belarus and Ukraine continue to assume that the only legally justified rates of assessment for Ukraine and Belarus are the ones calculated in accordance with resolution 46/221 A of 20 December 1991.

Let me conclude by conveying the gratitude of the delegations of Ukraine and Belarus to the Permanent Representative of Barbados, Ambassador Maycock, for his wise efforts, which made it possible to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 127.

The Assembly will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/48/737) on agenda item 128, entitled "United Nations common system". We shall take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/224).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 128?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/48/738) on agenda item 129, entitled "United Nations pension system". We shall take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Committee in paragraph 7 of that report. The draft resolution was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/225).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 129?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We will now consider the report of the Fifth Committee (A/48/802) on agenda item 159, entitled "Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991". We shall take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. May I consider that the General Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 159.

The General Assembly will now consider Part I of the report of the Fifth Committee (A/48/805) on agenda item 168, entitled "Personnel questions". We will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 5 of that document. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 168.

The Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee (A/48/812 and A/48/813) on agenda item 130, relating to the "Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East".

We shall first consider the report (A/48/812) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 130 (a), which relates to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force. We will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended in paragraph 6 of that report - which for the time being is contained in document A/C.5/48/L.15. The draft decision, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force", was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We will now consider the report (A/48/813) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 130 (b), which relates to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, who wishes to speak in explanation of position.

Mr. ALI (Syrian Arab Republic) *(interpretation from Arabic):* My delegation wishes to state its position on the draft decision contained in document A/48/812, relating to the financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), and on the draft decision contained in document A/48/813, relating to the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), under agenda item 130.

Had those draft decisions been put to the vote, my delegation would have voted against them, in line with our position of principle, which we have stated during previous sessions of the General Assembly, that the cost of financing these two forces must be borne by the occupying aggressor whose aggressive practices necessitated the deployment of the two forces.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 130.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/814) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 131, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission". We shall take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 6 of that report - which for the time being is contained in document A/C.5/48/L.17. The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 131.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/815) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 132 (a), entitled "United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.18. It is entitled "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991): United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission" and was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 132 (a).

We will now consider the report (A/48/816) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 133, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara".

We will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.19. It was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 133.

We will now proceed to consider the report (A/48/817) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 134, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.20. It was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 134.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/818) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 135, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia".

We will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.21. It was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 135.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/819) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 136, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Protection Force".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.22. It was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 136.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/820) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 137, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.23. It was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 137.

The Assembly will now consider parts I and II of the report (A/48/807 and A/48/807/Add.1) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 138, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations".

We shall first consider part I of the report (A/48/807). The Assembly will now take a decision on the two draft resolutions recommended in paragraph 9.

Draft resolution I is entitled "Support account for peace-keeping operations". It was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 48/226).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II is entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations". It was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 48/227).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider part II of the report (A/48/807/Add.1) of the Fifth Committee, on agenda item 138 (b), entitled "Relocation of Belarus and Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 7 of its report. The draft decision, entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations", was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 138.

The Assembly will now take up the report (A/48/821) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 149, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.24. It was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 149.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/822) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 160, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.25. It was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 160.

We will now proceed to consider the report (A/48/823) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 162, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.26. It was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly also wishes to do so?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 162.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/825) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 164, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda".

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision is, for the time being, contained in document A/C.5/48/L.27. It was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 164.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/826) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 165, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti". We shall take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 165.

We turn now to the report (A/48/827) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 166, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia". We shall take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 166.

We shall next consider the report (A/48/828) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 173, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda". We shall take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 173.

We turn next to the report (A/48/829) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 174, entitled "Financing of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia". We shall take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of that report. The draft decision was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I consider that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 174.

We turn next to the report (A/48/811) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 123, entitled "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995". The Assembly has before it five draft resolutions and one draft decision, recommended in paragraph 7 of that report - which, for the time being, is contained in section V, paragraphs 32 and 33, of document A/C.5/48/L.10 (Part I).

We shall first take a decision on the five draft resolutions recommended by the Fifth Committee. Draft resolution I is entitled "Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995". The Committee adopted draft resolution I without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 48/228).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution II, entitled "Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1994-1995", was adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the General Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 48/229).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution III, entitled "Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995", was also adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the Assembly will follow suit, and adopt draft resolution III?

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 48/230).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution IV (A to C), entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995", was adopted by the Fifth Committee. May I take it that the Assembly too wishes to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution IV (A to C) was adopted (resolution 48/231 A, B and C).

The PRESIDENT: Draft resolution V, entitled "Working capital fund for the biennium 1994-1995", was adopted by the Committee without a vote. May I take it that we will follow suit, and adopt draft resolution V?

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 48/232).

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 7 of its report - which, as I have already indicated, is contained in paragraph 33 of section V of document A/C.5/48/L.10 (Part I). May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 123.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/743) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 12, dealing with those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council that were allocated to the Fifth Committee. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision contained in paragraph 4 of that report. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of that draft decision. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of those chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council that were allocated to the Fifth Committee?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Under agenda item 12, the Assembly will now turn to the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/48/3). Members will recall that chapters I, V (sections A and B) and IX of the report of the Economic and Social Council were assigned for consideration directly in plenary meetings. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to take note of those chapters of the report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I further take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of chapters I, V (sections A and B) and IX of the report of the Economic and Social Council?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded our consideration of all the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/48/697) of the Fifth Committee on agenda item 17 (f), entitled "Appointment of members of the International Civil Service Commission". In paragraph 5 of that report, the Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly should appoint the following persons as members of the International Civil Service Commission for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1994: Mr. Mario Bettati, Ms. Lucretia Meyers, Mr. Antonio Fonseca Pimentel, Mr. Alexis Stephanou and Mr. Ku Tashiro.

May I consider that the Assembly wishes to appoint those persons?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 17 (f)?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of all the sub-items of agenda item 17

allocated to the Fifth Committee, and of all the reports of the Fifth Committee.

Let me take this opportunity to thank sincerely the Chairmen of the Fifth Committee and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and to echo the praise addressed to Ambassador Maycock, for their excellent work to ensure that we not only had a budget but were able to suspend the session in good time for the holidays.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: Apart from organizational matters and items that may have to be considered by operation of the rules of procedure of the Assembly, and bearing in mind the action already taken by the Assembly at its 22nd, 31st, 32nd, 48th, 54th, 69th, 70th, 73rd, 84th, 85th, 86th and 87th plenary meetings concerning agenda items 10, 16 (b), 16 (c), 24, 31, 33, 35, 36, 38, 42, 47, 49, 114 (b), 114 (c), 120 to 124, 127, 130 to 138, 149, 159, 160, 162, 164 to 166, 168, 170, 173 and 174, I should like to propose that the following agenda items remain for consideration during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly:

Item 10	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization
Item 16 (b)	Election of twelve members of the World Food Council
Item 17 (h)	Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit
Item 17 (i)	Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Item 24	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
Item 31	The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti
Item 33	Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council
Item 35	Question of Palestine
Item 36	Law of the Sea
Item 38	Elimination of apartheid and establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa
Item 42	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Item 47	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995
Item 49	Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security
Item 52	The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security
Item 53	Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly
Item 54	Question of Cyprus
Item 55	Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait
Item 114 (b)	Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
Item 114 (c)	Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives
Item 120	Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors
Item 121	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations
Item 122	Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993
Item 123	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995
Item 124	Improving the financial situation of the United Nations

Item 127 Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Item 130 Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East

Item 131 Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission

Item 132 Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)

Item 133 Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Item 134 Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador

Item 135 Financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

Item 136 Financing of the United Nations Protection Force

Item 137 Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II

Item 138 Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations

Item 149 Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique

Item 159 Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Item 160 Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus

Item 162 Financing of the United Nations Observation Mission in Georgia

Item 163 Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991

Item 164 Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda

Item 165 Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Haiti

Item 166 Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

Item 168 Personnel questions

Item 170 The situation in Burundi

Item 173 Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda

Item 174 Financing of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly that those agenda items remain for consideration during the forty-eighth session of the Assembly?

It was so decided.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: We are about to close this very momentous session.

It has been said that we diplomats are doubly condemned - not only must we make innumerable speeches, but we are also obliged to listen to them. I am sure, therefore, that after a most exhausting session - and I am certainly exhausted after reading out that extensive list - a session at which we have had a surfeit of words, the last thing members would wish to have from me at this stage of our proceedings is another lengthy statement.

I therefore propose to break with tradition and not make an extensive review of our work during the past three months. That may be safely left to a later date. I should like, however, with members' indulgence, to make a few general observations which are intended not so much as an assessment of our performance so far, but, rather, as an attempt to plan a programme of work during the intersessional period.

If I may say so myself, this regular session has been remarkable not only for the reaffirmation of faith in our Organization, but also for the many imaginative proposals aimed at its improvement. All leaders of delegations who addressed the Assembly in plenary session this year were at one in the confidence that, notwithstanding the setbacks faced in the search for peace and development, multilateralism is an ideal worthy of pursuit. It occurred to me as I listened that, if we could only capture their political goodwill and spirit of commitment in all our deliberations, we would be making considerable headway towards achieving agreement in all areas of common concern. Somehow, therefore, we must find the means of

making the general debate - and indeed all our operations - more practical and productive. I therefore urge the Working Group which has been set up to consider the revitalization of the General Assembly to give urgent and continuing attention to this task. It cannot be "business as usual" for the future.

Experience has shown that the collective voice of the Assembly is also, especially when raised in unison, a powerful factor for change in international affairs. Often when successful breakthroughs are achieved - as recently occurred in South Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere - we tend to give credit only to those associated with the immediate events, forgetting the many who have worked tirelessly over the years to bring them about. And yet it is undoubtedly the constant reaffirmation of common principles and policies by this Assembly that eventually creates the circumstances which can lead to the settlement of many longstanding and seemingly intractable situations.

Witness the happy coincidence with this particular session of the final steps taken towards establishing a non-racial Government in South Africa, and in Palestine the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accords. These are but two examples which reflect the incremental nature of our work. The passage of time, therefore, must never be allowed to blind us to the active role which the United Nations plays and can play in creating a new world order.

Clearly, one of our most urgent tasks is the further strengthening of the Organization's system of collective security in order to respond to attacks upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. With the establishment of an open-ended Working Group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council, we now have the opportunity to enable the Council to deal more effectively with the many challenges which have arisen in the post-cold-war era. It is my intention as President of the Assembly to convene a meeting of the open-ended Working Group towards the end of January 1994, at which time we may have an exchange of views on how our mandate may best be fulfilled. The Secretariat has been requested to prepare a basic working paper, which will serve as a framework for initial discussion. It is to be hoped that we will all approach our task in good faith and with a sense of purpose.

So pressing, however, is the need to strengthen our Organization's machinery in the area of peacemaking, peace-keeping and preventive diplomacy that swift action needs to be taken to put operations in these various fields on a more sound and reliable footing. We must ensure that this vital issue is satisfactorily addressed in the relevant Committees. There is also merit in a full exploration of the potential which Chapter VIII of the Charter contains for greater cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional organizations, which, with their particular experience and expertise, can effectively bolster the United Nations in the management of many critical situations. As I have mentioned time and again, I would very much wish to see a meeting early next year under United Nations auspices of the heads of these bodies to explore possible areas of cooperation.

On the economic side, I welcome the role given the presidency in the elaboration next year of an agenda for development. The open-ended, broad-based consultations that are foreseen will provide a significant contribution to the process already begun by the Secretary-General. I would think also that they can provide great impetus to the several important development-related conferences scheduled to take place in 1994. Our aim should therefore be to raise public awareness and to mobilize international support to ensure that these deliberations are all conducive to the alleviation, if not the eradication, of the terrible problems of poverty, disease, unemployment and homelessness which now bedevil most of our societies.

Much of the discussion, both in the Assembly and in Committees, clearly reflected the urgent common concerns of all humanity. We considered the worldwide scourge of drug abuse and pledged renewed support for the Global Programme of Action. We reviewed the humanitarian work of the Organization, gave it our endorsement and promised additional support. We affirmed the universal validity of human rights and took measures to begin to translate into practical terms the Declaration of the Vienna Conference, most notably by the establishment of the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It is fair to say, therefore, that the session has been a productive one. Whatever success has been achieved is in great measure due to the readiness shown by all delegations to work in a spirit of cooperation and compromise. It has also been made possible by the dedication, efficiency and professionalism of the staff of the General Assembly Affairs Secretariat, Conference Services - especially the interpreters and translators - and the Meetings Coverage Section of the Department of Public Information. I was at all times the beneficiary of their great expertise. I would thus wish to convey on members' behalf, and more particularly on my own, my profound appreciation of their assistance and to solicit their further cooperation in the year ahead.

I am equally indebted to our Vice-Presidents, who have shared with senior Secretariat officials - particularly Mr. Sukhodrev - and me long hours on the platform. Special mention must also be made of our competent

Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and their Secretariat staff, who worked assiduously to bring our work to a successful conclusion this evening. As President, I count myself fortunate to have had such a magnificent team. My sincere gratitude is also due to the Permanent Representatives of Benin, India, Mexico, Norway, Singapore and the United Republic of Tanzania, who, at my request and on my behalf, conducted necessary consultations on several of the delicate and important issues which were before us and brought them to speedy fruition.

With these brief acknowledgements, it only remains for me now to convey to all members, in this season of peace and goodwill, my very best wishes for a happy and restful holiday. I look forward to working with you again, refreshed and reinvigorated in the new year, to bring even greater success in our joint endeavour to make this United Nations truly a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of our common ends.

The meeting rose at 7.40 p.m.

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

88th PLENARY MEETING
Friday, 21 January 1994
at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY
(Guyana)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Marker (Pakistan), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (ARTICLE 19 OF THE CHARTER (A/48/853)

The PRESIDENT: I should like, in keeping with the established practice, to invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/48/853. It contains a letter addressed to the President of the General Assembly by the Secretary-General in which he informs the Assembly that 25 Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I should like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years ...."

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of this information?

It was so decided.

EARTHQUAKE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The PRESIDENT: May I, on behalf of all the members of the Assembly, extend our deepest sympathy to the Government and the people of the United States of America on the tragic loss of life and extensive material damage which have resulted from the recent earthquake.

I now call on the representative of the United States of America.

Mr. INDERFURTH (United States of America): On behalf of my Government and the people of the United States, I should like to thank the Assembly and Ambassador Marker for the kind words of sympathy in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Los Angeles. I should also like to express our deep gratitude for the thoughtful expressions of sympathy offered by Member States.

On behalf of the residents of the Los Angeles region in particular, I should like to reiterate how touched we are by these expressions of kindness and concern.

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Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

When the result of a recorded and/or roll-call vote is followed by an asterisk, see the annex to the record.

94-85054 (E)

Distr. GENERAL

A/48/PV.88
2 February 1994

ENGLISH

AGENDA ITEM 8 (*continued*)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: REQUEST FOR THE REOPENING OF AGENDA ITEM 167 (A/48/851)

The PRESIDENT: I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/48/851, which contains a solemn appeal made by the President of the General Assembly on 19 January 1994 in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce.

In order for the General Assembly to take note of the solemn appeal, it will be be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 167.

Under the circumstances, may I take it that the General Assembly has no objection to reopening consideration of agenda item 167?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 167 (*continued*)

BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND BETTER WORLD THROUGH SPORT

The PRESIDENT: I will now read out the solemn appeal made by the President of the General Assembly in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce:

> "On 25 October 1993, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/10, by which it proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal, and resolution 48/11, in which it urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce.
>
> "The Olympic Truce for the upcoming Olympic Games to be held at Lillehammer, Norway, from 12 to 27 February 1994, will last from 5 February to 6 March 1994. The Olympic Truce, or *ekecheria*, is based on an ancient Greek tradition, dating back to the ninth century B.C. All conflicts ceased during the period of the Truce, which began seven days prior to the opening of the Olympic Games and ended on the seventh day following the closing of the Games, so that athletes, artists, their relatives and pilgrims could travel safely to the Olympic Games and afterwards return to their countries.
>
> "Valiant attempts have consistently been made by the United Nations in an effort to bring peace and stability to the troubled regions of the world. Still new concepts are needed for dealing with strife.
>
> "I solemnly appeal to all States to observe the Olympic Truce and to strive towards building lasting peace, whether or not they are now parties to a confrontation. I urge us all to place at the forefront of our thoughts and actions the principles and ideals which the *ekecheria* and the Olympic Movement seek to propagate. By applying the principle of the *ekecheria*, the world can at least hope for some respite, however temporary, from the killing and destruction which accompany conflict. I therefore appeal to those now engaged in armed struggles to uphold this principle and suspend hostilities in keeping with its observance." (A/48/851)

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of the solemn appeal made by the President of the General Assembly on 19 January 1994 in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 167.

AGENDA ITEM 38 (*continued*)

ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED, DEMOCRATIC AND NON-RACIAL SOUTH AFRICA

(a) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/48/845 and Add.1)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.52)

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that the Assembly concluded its debate on agenda item 38 at its 80th plenary meeting, on 15 December, and that at its 85th plenary meeting, on 20 December, the Assembly adopted four resolutions that had been submitted under this agenda item.

The Assembly now has before it a report of the Secretary-General on the question of South Africa which has been circulated in document A/48/845 and Add.1 as well as a draft resolution issued as document A/48/L.52.

I now call on the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid to introduce draft resolution A/48/L.52.

Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid: As members are aware, at its 1st meeting, on 17 December 1993, the Transitional Executive Council endorsed the resolution requesting the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the European Union

and the Organization of African Unity, as well as individual Governments, to provide a sufficient number of international observers to monitor the electoral process in South Africa and called upon the United Nations to coordinate all such international observers.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/159 A, entitled "International efforts towards the total eradication of apartheid and support for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa", adopted by consensus on 20 December 1993, called upon the Secretary-General to respond promptly and positively to a request for electoral assistance and also requested him to accelerate planning for a United Nations role in the election process in consultation with the Security Council and in coordination with the observer missions of the Organization of African Unity, the Commonwealth and the European Union.

As members are also aware, the Secretary-General then appointed Mr. [Lakhdar] Brahimi, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, as his Special Representative for South Africa. Mr. Brahimi visited that country with a team from the Secretariat at the end of December 1993 to identify the scope and the modalities of United Nations involvement in the electoral process in South Africa.

During his visit to South Africa, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General held consultations with the Government, with political parties, representatives of the transitional institutions, intergovernmental observer missions, the diplomatic community, leaders of the National Peace Accord structures and leading individuals. He was also briefed by the survey team on its findings.

On 10 January 1994, the Secretary-General issued a report on the question of South Africa based on the findings of the mission of the Special Representative (A/48/845). The report of the Secretary-General contains a profound assessment of the pre-electoral situation in South Africa. It rightly identifies the areas of concern and clearly indicates new tasks and new responsibilities for the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA) in the forthcoming period.

Under the proposed expansion in size and mandate, the Mission would be required to verify the implementation of the Independent Media Commission and the Independent Broadcasting Authority Acts, the voter education efforts of the electoral authorities, the distribution of the identification documents, free access and freedom from intimidation at voting stations on election day, the transportation of ballot papers and the security of the vote count itself, as well as the coordination of observers from intergovernmental organizations and foreign Governments. The Mission will also monitor the compliance of the security forces with the relevant laws and decisions of the Transitional Executive Council.

The Secretary-General underlined in his report that the experience of the United Nations in Namibia indicated that long-term observers who had followed the whole electoral campaign and established networks of contacts were far more useful than those who arrived just before the election and concentrated on observing the voting exercise itself. The Secretary-General therefore proposed that under the expanded mandate UNOMSA would have two operational areas: a Peace Promotion Division and an Electoral Division. He has consistently recommended an increase of the Peace Promotion Division from the current 100 observers to 500 by March 1994 to allow the monitoring teams to increase their coverage. The Electoral Division, on the other hand, would be expanded from the current authorized level of 14 to an election period total of 50. Approximately 300 local staff would be required by the end of February, and an additional 700 during the final phase leading up to the elections. It is expected that the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Union (EU) and the Commonwealth will have 15, 150 and 20 observers respectively by the end of February 1994. The total number of observers required for the election itself will be 2,840. The core observer group will comprise 50 observers from the OAU, 322 from the European Union, 70 from the Commonwealth, 600 from such resources as surrounding African and other countries in the continent and the remaining 1,778 from the United Nations itself.

The report of the Secretary-General was considered by the Security Council at its closed meeting on 13 January 1994 and at its formal meeting on 14 January 1994. All 15 members of the Council, as well as the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations and the representative of the African National Congress (ANC), made statements. All the speakers welcomed with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General for its substance and unanimously supported the recommendations contained in it. An appropriate resolution - resolution 894 (1994) - was adopted by consensus.

The draft resolution before the General Assembly today is a product of consultations with all the regional groups. The draft resolution is in line with the Security Council resolution. It also reflects the views and proposals overwhelmingly expressed by Member States during the debate on South Africa in this very hall last December. I feel sure that the report of the Secretary-General and the resolution of the Security Council, as well as this resolution when adopted by the General Assembly, will be sources of encouragement to all those in South Africa who seek a peaceful political settlement for their country, while also

sending a clear signal to those who are still staying out of the process and those who often threaten the election itself to reconsider their position in the larger interests of all South Africans.

Since the future of South Africa depends on the outcome of the first non-racial democratic elections, an immediate task before the United Nations and the international community as a whole is to provide the necessary support for the electoral process which the South Africans, through the Transitional Executive Council, have requested, and on which this resolution has focused. It is in this connection that I urge the Assembly to adopt this draft resolution by consensus and thus stay with the South Africans in this critical last lap of what has been a very difficult and tortuous journey towards their freedom.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Democratic and non-racial elections in South Africa" (A/48/L.52). May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/233).

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 38.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

89th PLENARY MEETING
Monday, 14 February 1994 at 10.30 a.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 127 (*continued*)

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (ARTICLE 19 OF THE CHARTER) (A/48/853/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: Before turning to the items on our agenda for this meeting, I should like to draw the Assembly's attention to document A/48/853/Add.1. In a letter contained in that document, the Secretary-General informs me that, since the issuance of his communication dated 21 January 1994, Costa Rica and Paraguay have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of that information?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 17 (*continued*)

APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

(h) APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT: NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT (A/48/109)

The PRESIDENT: As indicated in document A/48/109, as a result of consultations in accordance with article 3, paragraph 2 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, I now submit to the Assembly the candidature of Mr. Sumihiro Kuyama of Japan for appointment as a member of the Joint Inspection Unit for a term of office commencing on 1 January 1995 and expiring on 31 December 1999.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to appoint that candidate?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Assembly, I offer Mr. Kuyama our warmest good wishes on his appointment.

The Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 17 (h).

This record is subject to correction.
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AGENDA ITEM 114 *(continued)*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS: NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/48/859)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now consider, under this sub-item, the matter of the appointment of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. In this connection, the Assembly has before it a note by the Secretary-General issued as document A/48/859. Members will recall that the Assembly, in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, decided to create the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights. By this resolution, the Assembly also decided that the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall:

> "(a) Be a person of high moral standing and personal integrity and shall possess expertise, including in the field of human rights, and the general knowledge and understanding of diverse cultures necessary for impartial, objective, non-selective and effective performance of the duties of the High Commissioner;
>
> "(b) Be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years;
>
> "(c) Be of the rank of Under-Secretary-General".

In the light of the provisions of resolution 48/141, the Secretary-General proposes to appoint His Excellency Mr. José Ayala Lasso of Ecuador as High Commissioner for Human Rights for a term of office of four years, effective 28 February 1994.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to approve this appointment?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Assembly and on my own behalf, I would like to congratulate the Permanent Representative of Ecuador, Ambassador José Ayala Lasso, on his unanimous election to be the first holder of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Assembly established the post last December, after much deliberation, with an exacting job description. It now has the pleasure and satisfaction of appointing, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, one of its outstanding members. There is no doubt in my mind that this appointment will fulfil the expectations raised at the Vienna Conference on Human Rights and the expectations of this Assembly. We are glad that Ambassador Ayala Lasso was available, and grateful that he is in a position to accept these new responsibilities that the Assembly has unanimously confided to him. I therefore wish him well in his new assignment.

Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Allow me to begin, Sir, by expressing my appreciation for your kind words regarding my appointment as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

I am honoured by the confidence which the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and the States Members of the United Nations have placed in me by appointing me the first United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. This is indeed a great honour for my country and for me personally. I accept this honour with humility and a solemn pledge to dedicate myself to carrying out my new functions with the utmost devotion and in the conviction that the cause I am working for is without a doubt the most noble of causes, since, as the Secretary-General stated at the Vienna Conference:

> "Human rights permeate all activities of our Organization, of which they are, simultaneously, the very foundation and the supreme goal".

The idea of establishing a post of High Commissioner for Human Rights has a long history, in which Uruguay and Costa Rica played a valiant part. And yet for many reasons it proved impossible to reach an agreement that would make this dream a reality. The Vienna Conference of June 1993 marked a turning-point in this elusive history. For the first time a consensus was reached on approaching the sensitive issue of human rights from a global perspective and on seeking global solutions to human rights problems.

The spirit of Vienna flourished in the Declaration and Programme of Action, whose contents offer both vision and guidance. It was this spirit of Vienna, which reflects the ongoing maturing of the conscience of humanity, that made it possible for the General Assembly to agree to create the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights and to give the Commissioner a clear-cut mandate. I intend to preserve and constantly strengthen this spirit of international cooperation and human solidarity so that I can effectively tackle the sensitive tasks entrusted to me.

The broad-ranging debate and the frank exchange of views which took place in the Third Committee Working Group, which I chaired, provided me with firsthand knowledge of the hopes, aspirations and - why not say it? - the suspicions and fears that exist. The hopes and aspirations were widespread, while the fears and suspicions had roots that lay deep in the negative experiences of the past and in mutual distrust, remnants of the era of confrontation. However, as these fears were inconsistent with the spirit prevailing at the Vienna Conference, it was possible gradually to dispel them as recognition of the high importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action and of the need to look at the High Commissioner's *raison d'être* and functions from a new historical perspective grew.

A consensus thus emerged among all representatives, culminating in the adoption of resolution 48/141. Under that resolution, I shall have principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities, under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. I shall promote and protect the effective enjoyment by all of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development. To this end, I shall act within the framework specified in resolution 48/141, in accordance with the decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights. I shall carry out all tasks assigned to me by the competent bodies of the United Nations system and make recommendations to them with a view to improving the promotion and protection of all human rights.

In the exercise of my functions I shall adhere strictly to this framework in order to help build the spirit of trust that led to the creation of my post, and I shall enhance the moral authority of the office. I shall maintain an attitude of vigilance, openness and initiative.

To ensure that my actions are effective, I shall need the support and cooperation of all. The General Assembly has determined that one of my functions shall be to engage in a dialogue with all Governments with a view to securing respect for all human rights. Let me say that it is my intention to carry out this mandate at once. To that end, I now invite all Governments, without exception, to open wide their doors to me in friendship so that we may begin a frank dialogue, without conditions or prejudices, whose sole purpose is that called for by all the members of this Assembly - the promotion, protection and effective enjoyment of all human rights by all.

The conscience of mankind has recognized that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and that it is the duty of all States to promote and protect them. I shall guide my work accordingly, paying due attention to national and regional characteristics, and to historical, cultural and religious traditions.

I shall also immediately forge constructive contacts with United Nations human rights bodies in order to ensure a coherent, coordinated and complementary approach. I shall do this also with the financial and development assistance organizations with a view to identifying unified, objective and impartial criteria in these areas. I also wish to state unequivocally that I am aware of the historical contribution of non-governmental organizations to the cause of human rights, and I shall seek and rely on their cooperation to the fullest.

Solidarity and interdependence are realities which we all - States, nations and human beings - experience daily and which must increasingly mark our values and priorities. We must endeavour to forge a universal culture of human rights. Accordingly, I shall place special emphasis on human rights information and education programmes. In this way, each of us can become a high commissioner to promote and protect our own human rights and those of others.

History has shown irrefutably that only those countries which promote and protect human rights are in a position to ensure peace, progress and well-being for their peoples. I firmly believe that democratic forms of government permit overall development and the attainment of satisfactory standards of respect for human rights.

Nevertheless, advances in this area must be backed by a policy of constant support for human rights. Even in the best democracies, there are regrettable lapses, but the proof that a nation is determined to follow the right path lies in its ability bravely to face up to its own mistakes, to correct them and to prevent their recurrence.

The main responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights lies with each State, but the promotion and protection of human rights are a priority for the international community. I believe that each State should be severely self-critical of its own conduct in order to fulfil its essential responsibility in this area and that the international community should not remain indifferent to situations which it has itself defined as being of high priority. The creation of the post of High Commissioner is the response which all States wished to make to this universal concern. Hence, the High Commissioner should be the voice of the moral conscience of humanity. That is the deep significance of the consensus behind this initiative.

In the performance of my duties, I shall proceed with objectivity and impartiality in dealing with all situations and with all States, but, as an overwhelming expression of love for my people, whom I shall shortly cease to represent in the United Nations, I shall be especially strict within my mandate in ensuring that Ecuador displays a blameless approach to respect for human rights.

All must accede to the international instruments which have gradually been embodying valuable advances in the promotion and defence of human rights, in order for them to acquire universal legal effect.

The Centre for Human Rights has a crucial role, which I shall endeavour to strengthen, particularly as regards the provision of advisory services and technical assistance to States at their request, and the preparation of studies and transmission of information on all questions relating to human rights. From today I am at the disposal of any State which wishes in any way to study the possibility of cooperation in these aspects.

I am embarking on a voyage on as yet uncharted seas, but I have a clear view of the new world which we all wish to discover. Its attractions are so many and its promises so numerous that I shall not be dismayed by any obstacle of any kind. At all times I shall follow the route outlined by the Secretary-General, whose political concepts and clear vision of the future we all admire. I am sure that the General Assembly, under your faultless leadership, Mr. President, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights will also give me timely and valuable guidance. Nevertheless, my basic pole star and guide will be my own unshakeable convictions, my faith in the transcendence of the human person, my conviction that mankind, in its constant quest for perfection, has now reached the threshold of the temple where we shall consecrate for ever the timeless and irreplaceable value of the human race and, consequently, the respect for all its rights, everywhere, in all circumstances and without any preconditions. My training, my own country and my philosophical and religious convictions lead me to espouse the concept of transcendental humanism. I believe profoundly in the cause whose banner has been entrusted to me by the General Assembly. I shall devote myself to it without reservation and without fear.

Let me conclude by recalling the brilliant words with which our Secretary-General refers to the inescapable link between peace, development and democracy. I firmly believe in these concepts and in their interdependence. And what is more, I think that a peace without human rights is not a true peace, that a democracy without human rights is not a true democracy, and that development without human rights is not development. This is because the human race is the centre of the universe, the measure of things and the whole point of the creation.

What a noble and important task I am now receiving from the hands of the community of nations! In order to succeed in it, I invoke the blessing of God and appeal for the cooperation of all States, governmental and non-governmental organizations and people of good will.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 123 (*continued*)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995: REPORT OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE (PART II) (A/48/811/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: Part II of the report concerns the question of financing for the expansion of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee which is before it.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 5 of part II of its report (A/48/811/Add.1).

The Fifth Committee adopted the draft resolution, entitled "Financing for the expansion of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa", without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/230 B).

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Greece, who will speak on behalf of the European Union, for an explanation of position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. ZEVELAKIS (Greece) *(interpretation from French)*: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union to explain our position following the adoption of the resolution concerning the financing of the expansion of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA).

The European Union has always considered the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa an activity of primary importance for the United Nations, and the Twelve have shown a very active interest in promoting the process of national reconciliation in South Africa. They participate in it with a mission of 332 observers who are now in place. Furthermore, we are aware of the need to facilitate the proper functioning of the Mission in order to make it possible, as decided by resolution 48/159 A, for it to respond immediately and effectively to the appeal for electoral assistance made by the provisional authorities in South Africa.

The resolution, which has just been adopted without a vote, thanks to the flexibility of all delegations, can guarantee that the expansion of the Mission is well financed. It represents a continuation of the financing method proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of his report (A/C.5/48/28) and adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 48/231 of 23 December 1993, on the budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

We must bear in mind that since UNOMSA, having no military units, is not a peace-keeping operation but simply an electoral observer Mission, and because it is one of the Organization's most important activities, it has always been financed through the regular budget. We are therefore pleased at the adoption of this resolution, which, with the necessary cooperation between the participants in the Mission and with the presentation of an effective plan of operationals, will make possible the establishment of a united and democratic South Africa founded on a basis of no racial discrimination.

We also hope that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure the promotion of the full participation of the entire South African population in the electoral process.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to propose, in view of the fact that the General Assembly adopted the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 on 23 December 1993, that the item's title be amended by deleting the word "proposed". It will therefore read "Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995".

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 123.

AGENDA ITEM 8 *(continued)*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK: NINTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/48/250/Add.8)

The PRESIDENT: The ninth report of the General Committee concerns a request for the inclusion in the agenda of an additional item submitted by the Russian Federation and a request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Madagascar.

In paragraph 1 (a) of the report, the Committee recommends the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Observer status for the Commonwealth of Independent States in the General Assembly".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to include in the agenda of the forty-eighth session this additional item?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 1 (b) the Committee recommends to the Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting. May I take it that the Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next I should like to draw the attention of representatives to paragraph 2 (a) of the report, where the Committee recommends the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Emergency assistance to Madagascar".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include this additional item in its agenda?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 2 (b) of the report the General Committee recommends that the item be considered directly in plenary meeting. May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: May I also take it that, as requested by several Member States, this item should be given priority for immediate consideration by the Assembly because of its urgent character?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members that the new item becomes item 177 of the agenda of the forty-eighth regular session of the Assembly. The Assembly will proceed immediately to consider agenda item 177, entitled "Emergency assistance to Madagascar".

AGENDA ITEM 177

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO MADAGASCAR: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.53)

The PRESIDENT: In view of the desire of several Member States to dispose of this item expeditiously, I should like to consult the Assembly with a view to proceeding immediately to consider the draft resolution contained in document A/48/L.53.

In this connection, since the draft resolution has just been circulated, it will be necessary to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure. I should like to remind members that the text of the draft resolution appeared in document A/48/247.

Rule 78 reads as follows:

"As a general rule, no proposal shall be discussed or put to the vote at any meeting of the General Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations not later than the day preceding the meeting."

Unless I hear any objections, I shall take it that the Assembly agrees to waive the relevant provision of rule 78 of the rules of procedure.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon the representative of Botswana to introduce draft resolution A/48/L.53.

Mrs. LEGWAILA (Botswana): As Chairperson of the Group of African States for this month, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/48/L.53, entitled "Emergency assistance to Madagascar".

As you know, Sir, Madagascar has recently been stricken by two very powerful tropical cyclones, causing extensive damage and devastation in four provinces out of six. Data are still incomplete, but as of now it is known that at least 200 people have been killed. Out of 5,423,199 inhabitants directly affected, several hundred thousand have suffered injury or loss. A large number of public buildings, such as schools, hospitals, prisons and barracks, as well as private buildings, have been damaged or destroyed. Key sectors in the economic and social life of the country - transport, communications and energy - have also been seriously affected. The main highways connecting the country's principal areas of agricultural production have also been damaged or completely destroyed as a result of landslides, floods and the destruction of bridges and roads. The two main lines of the Malagasy railway are damaged. Two important industrial installations - the factory that makes lubricating products and the only oil refinery in the country - have been seriously damaged.

Losses in the agriculture and livestock sectors have affected 75 per cent of socio-economic life; 70 per cent of paddy-fields have been flooded, probably irretrievably. Cash crops for processing and export have been sorely affected. Harvests of coffee, vanilla beans, cloves, lychees and so on on the east coast are likely to be severely affected for the next several years.

The first two preambular paragraphs of the draft resolution express the concern of the international community regarding the calamity that has occurred in Madagascar.

In the last preambular paragraph the Assembly notes the negative impact of this type of periodic natural disaster on the economic development process undertaken by the Malagasy Government.

In paragraph 1 the General Assembly declares its solidarity with the Malagasy Government and the people of Madagascar in their affliction.

The second operative paragraph takes note of the efforts being exerted by the Malagasy Government, as described in paragraph 14 of the explanatory memorandum contained in document A/48/247.

Paragraph 3 commends the international community, including the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, for the measures taken in supplementing the efforts of the Malagasy Government.

Paragraph 4 requests the Secretary-General to act; this is in accordance with the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly concerning humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, and in particular, with chapters V and VI of the annex to resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991.

In our view, the main objective of the draft resolution lies in paragraph 5, which appeals to all States and the international organizations to provide, urgently, additional assistance to Madagascar.

The last operative paragraph requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council on the implementation of the resolution.

Finally, in the spirit of solidarity which the international community has always shown in similar circumstances, I very much hope - and plead - that the members of the Assembly will adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

Mr. LADSOUS (France) *(interpretation from French)*: Madagascar has just been seriously hit by two tropical cyclones. The material damage and the other consequences of all kinds for the lives of the population are very serious. The memorandum submitted by the representative of Madagascar (A/48/247) gives an idea of how serious the situation is, as does the statement just made by the representative of Botswana on behalf of the African Group.

In the face of these natural disasters, a special effort by the international community is absolutely crucial to show our solidarity with the Republic of Madagascar and its seriously afflicted population. The draft resolution requests all States and international organizations to provide urgently additional support in order to mitigate the economic and financial burden which the Malagasy people will have to bear during the period of emergency and, in the longer term, to rebuild the country's economy and infrastructure, which were seriously damaged by the disaster.

France, both bilaterally and with its partners in the European Union, will make a significant contribution to both of these undertakings. In fact, it has already begun to do so. My country did its best to react swiftly to the expressions of need of the Government of Madagascar by making available water-purification materials, equipment to shelter its people and electrical and telecommunications equipment, as well as other technical equipment, all sent very quickly both by air and by sea.

Seven Transall aircraft landed in Antananarivo between 3 and 12 February. There will be other flights, and other equipment is headed there by sea. Furthermore, food aid will be sent in April to help the country to face its crop shortages. These preliminary measures represent an important solidarity enterprise, which is well justified by the extent of the damage and its serious consequences for the people. They are certainly only the first measures; they must be followed up and continued, as stated in the explanatory memorandum submitted by the representative of Madagascar. Assistance in rebuilding and in restoring the transportation, energy and communications infrastructure, as well as resources to compensate for lost crops, will be indispensable. The Malagasy authorities know they can count on our full support.

It is in this spirit that we recommend that the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/48/L.53, put forward on the initiative of the representative of Madagascar.

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.53.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/234).

Mr. RAKOTONDRAMBOA (Madagascar) *(interpretation from French)*: The adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/48/L.53 shows that the whole international community remains deeply concerned over the critical situation of developing countries which are the victims of natural disasters. This decision reflects once again the expression of international solidarity enshrined in the United Nations Charter. The Government of my country is particularly grateful to the members of the Assembly for this demonstration of sympathy and solidarity.

My delegation wishes to thank Madame Pholile Legwaila, chargé d'affaires of the Botswana delegation,

who, as Chairperson of the African Group for this month, was kind enough to introduce the draft resolution. My delegation is also grateful for the gestures of sister delegations of this Group, which, by co-sponsoring the draft resolution, have expressed their renewed concern for us. Our gratitude also goes to the delegations, which have expressed their support and sympathy for the people and Government of Madagascar.

I should also like to take this opportunity to express once again our sincerest thanks and the deepest gratitude of the Government of the Republic of Madagascar to the States, the international and non-governmental organizations and the associations which did not hesitate, from the onset of the disaster, to assist Madagascar in these difficult times. In addition, we cannot fail to mention the diligent and effective actions of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, both at Headquarters - in New York and Geneva - and in the field, and the work of the Resident Coordinator, which we greatly appreciate.

We are confident that, following the appeal contained in this resolution, international actors will participate in large numbers or will continue to participate significantly in the aid and emergency assistance operations.

We must recognize that the importance of emergency assistance in all cases of natural disasters should not obscure the inherent limitations of such of action, which aims to alleviate some of the difficulties of the population, who, once they are over the shock, still face the whole problem of recovery. That is why the Government of the Republic of Madagascar wishes to draw the attention of the international community to the economic and financial difficulties my country faces in undertaking its reconstruction at a particularly difficult and challenging time.

My delegation will have the occasion at the proper time to inform the appropriate bodies of the Organization of these issues. Two important aspects of the problem should be highlighted here and now, however.

First, the rebuilding of equipment and infrastructures will entail an intolerable increase in public expenditures and the allocation of a significant percentage of our resources to financing development projects that are already scheduled.

Secondly, the growth prospects of the national economy will be seriously damaged as a result of a drop in production due to damage suffered by the agriculture, transport, communications and energy sectors, while the loss of export products will result in a worsening of our balance of payments.

Faced with these problems, we hope that the international community will be understanding and helpful in considering the extent to which it can participate in the reconstruction and recovery programme. The wishes we have just expressed are justified by the same conviction as assures us that the present and future initiatives of my Government will be considered sympathetically by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 177?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.